

Please take the time to write to your MP about the need for further, long-term investment in college pay and funding

You can find your MP's email address by entering your postcode here:
<https://www.writetothem.com>

You can also use copy and paste the template text below for your email. Please make sure to personalise it – the parliamentary email system filters out duplicate messages - and remember to add your name and address so your MP will know that you are one of their constituents.

Dear XXX,

I am writing as your constituent to ask you to help keep the pressure on the government in relation to funding for further education in England.

In the recent spending review, the Chancellor announced an additional £400m for further education, to raise the 16-18 base rate and provide extra support for high cost subjects. This long-overdue investment is welcome, but we must be clear that it is only the first step in addressing the funding crisis facing colleges.

As the Institute for Fiscal Studies has recognised, an additional £1.1bn investment would be required in addition to this £400m to return 16-18 spending to 2010 levels. The adult education budget has also been cut by 45% since 2010. The recent Augar review recognised the need for significant additional investment in further education, while the Labour party has estimated that £3.3bn investment would be needed to reverse the real-terms cuts since 2010.

If the government is serious about boosting technical education and ensuring a vibrant further education sector, it needs to match that ambition with sustainable, long-term funding.

The government also needs to make sure that staff are a priority for investment. Cuts in recent years have led to the loss of over 24,000 teachers, recruitment and retention difficulties being reported at 90% of colleges and an average pay gap of £7,000 between school and college teachers. I am

concerned that this downward trend in the pay, conditions and status of further education staff is deeply damaging for the sector and its students.

I therefore ask that you show your support for further education colleges and their staff, and push for long-term investment in the sector by:

- Writing to the Chancellor calling for additional, long-term investment in next year's Comprehensive Spending Review
- Calling on the Secretary of State for Education to give a clear steer that further education staff should be a priority for investment
- Raising the issue of further education pay and funding in parliament through questions and debates

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

XXX

- raising a question about college pay and funding at Treasury Questions on 21st May.
- writing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Education Secretary asking for additional funding to support further and technical education.
- signing the following Early Day Motions 1686 (Investing in Further Education) and 1996 (Funding for Further Education) if you haven't already done so.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

XXX